

FINAL

2/25
(7)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 11, 2013

Francis Faulkner Hearing Room 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ms. Barrat, Ms. Adachi, Mr. Gowing, Mr. Clough, Mr. Sonner and Town Manager Ledoux, Recording Secretary; Christine Joyce. The meeting was televised

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

League of Women Voters Representative speaking on behalf of the LWV, urged the board to continue to put budgets at the beginning of the meeting. She read a prepared statement of issues that they have concerns with and suggestions.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE & OPERATIONAL MINUTE

Ms. Harting-Barrat – spoke about the snow removal efforts in town and thanked the employees for their actions to keep the citizens safe.

Ms. Harting-Barrat spoke about the upcoming Chinese New Year Celebration, urged people to attend this wonderful event.

Mr. Ledoux announced we were lucky with the storm on Friday. We were prepared to open the shelter and felt that the Governor's mandate to keep off the roads was critical to the success. We did have 5 power outages scattered around town. He spoke about the Minuteman Vocational School meeting and proposed budget and Minuteman has received a grant for \$50,000 to conduct a Systems Sustaining Study. Their goal is to have the study done by June 30, 2013, he feels it will cause a great deal of debate. They have undertaken a feasibility study for an expansion of Minuteman and will hope to get it to the selectmen by the end of February. He attended a meeting regarding affordable housing conducted by ACHC and Regional Housing Services which works at the Sudbury Town Hall. Taped the first 472 Main TV and Chief Widmayer, was his first interview and spoke on police and police in the schools issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

JOINT MEETING WITH LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Mr. Glennon asked that we not fill Mr. Hirst's vacancy. They ask that we just abide by the results of the election in March. Mr. Sonner - Move to leave the trustee position open until the Town Election. Mr. Gowing – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

MORRISON FARM DISCUSSION

Ms. Adachi asked that it be put on the agenda to discuss issues and concerns and possible open meeting law violations. They spoke about the dismantling of the existing barn building at Morrison Farm. Ms. Adachi felt we need to be consistent and the plan has changed along the way and was not aware we approved any changes. She feels it should get an airing; we need to clarify if we want all of the components in the plan. Mr. Gowing read a statement from Bill Mullin, about alleged Open Meeting Law violations.

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Mr. Gowing disagreed with Ms. Adachi that we have had them in twice and the Board told them to go forward to CPC.

Ms. Adachi felt rushed and wanted to hear the proposal again and is concerned with the building and felt that there was not much public comment. She felt people are assuming what the town may want and felt it needed to be further vetted.

Ann Chang said this is a conceptual plan and it is able to change and conceptual designs will move to final designs. Last week they looked at three different proposals. All concerns were addressed regarding the building and the architect is working pro bono and felt that part of the project will involve the Selectmen. They have another focus meeting and site walk. They have had 22 meetings. They have met with Cemetery Commissioners and worked out issues and the Commission supported Plan B. The end support will be when it goes before Town meeting and those people will make the decision on what will be built.

Mr. Clough - spoke about Design Review Board and came up with the same ideas for the movement to block the garden and asked about taking down the barn. They will try to save the lumber if they can and the barn was never going to be used for public use.

Mr. Gowing said it is a stick built barn and built during the depression and that is one of the issues. The barn is unsafe for the public to go into. We could use for storage of equipment.

John Earl a gardener that uses the location had questions of what is right for Morrison Farm. They have listened to the gardener's and accommodated their concerns. If we choose to have a building the best place is on the barn site.

Ann Forbes – comments about wanting to point out that we look to Boxborough and Steele Farm. The barn is used for storage and the house is also on the property. It is a 1930's barn and was built with dimensional lumber, much like Morrison Farm.

Mr. Sonner wanted to address issues and complaints. One is the approach is rushed and what plan is being proposed and has departed from the 2010 plan.

Ann Chang noted the Alarm Stone and they could move it to make it more accessible to those wishing to see it without taking the risk of getting hit by traffic on Concord Road.

Herman Kabakoff asked about it the CPC and the presentation to town meeting. He asked if we could not add or change anything in the plan, and asked if that was the fact and Mr. Ledoux said it is either up or down at town meeting.

Ms. Adachi said that we have a responsibly as the Board and if they are comfortable with the building. The plans are conceptual and may change. There have been changes and we have not seen all the changes.

Ann Chang noted there will be a meeting on March 6 in 204 and two site walks Feb 23 and March 9th.

Ms. Harting-Barrat wanted to know if the Board wanted to see a conceptual plan to vote on because the building has changed before we vote on it. Mr. Sonner questioned an all at once plan. He is not sure that we might hold off on the building and address it in phase II

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Mr. Earl noted the trees do not shade the garden but the building will.

Ms. Adachi noted this is a town project and CPC is the voting party on this issue. The Board will take this up again on February 25 at 8:30.

TRAFFIC RULES AND ORDERS, WEST ACTON

Corey York spoke about the options and possible amendments to the Traffic Rules and Orders. He reviewed the existing restrictions already in place. He outlined his conclusion and suggestions for amendments.

Mr. Gowing asked about neck downs to provide on street handicapped spaces. If we make two hour spots we will lose two spots. They spoke about the car wash property and could it be used for parking. Perhaps the local employers could pay the Botto's to use the lot for their employee parking.

Mr. Sonner spoke about his conversation with the police chief and noted we are not going to have anyone there to catch the parking and monitoring use.

Mr. Clough - Moved to accept the changes proposed by Corey York and removing the two spots at Spruce Street and Kinsley Road. Mr. Gowing – second Scenario one, Mass Ave Project. UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE

PLANNING BOARD DISCUSSION OF WARRANT ARTICLES

Jeff Clymer, Margret Busse, Derick Chin, Roland Burdon were present for the presentation of 15 zoning articles. They asked if there would be something they could put aside in the Town Meeting Warrant to have articles earlier in the discussion to get greater input.

Mr. Clymer discussed home heating storage and the three bylaws that fit together and to reach a compromise, but they are concerned about this issue. Mr. Clough discussed the heating fuel issues at EDC meeting.

Residents of Robbins Brook spoke about changes being made to the bylaw for wood storage. Helen Taylor spoke about the issue of impacting the wells, neighbors and noise. Robbins Brook is moving forward and talked about zoning and protective bylaws. Pope Road resident spoke about zoning and that it has nothing to do with noise, DEP has the regulations; the Town has no enforcement.

There was much discussion with regard to these bylaws as they pertain to wood and manufacturing of fire wood. The board suggested the neighbors attend the Planning boards Open Hearing on Warrant Articles.

Donation Bins – set-backs and screening issues and regulate it so it does not get out of control.

Brook Side Shops – Amendment came up last year. The property is zoned residential.

Commercial use in private neighborhoods, to use tennis Courts and bubble.

Define and Regulate Community Service Uses, permit food pantry etc, charitable groups

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Citizen Petition – Drive Thru's not addressed as it is not the Board of Selectmen who make recommendation whether or not to move it to the warrant

Amend Definitions Warehouse

Regulations Dispensation Medical Marijuana. Will address at a later time.

Outdoor Retail Sales "sidewalk sales" articles were discussed

Allow Temporary Yard Sales up to three per year

Define Solar Power and Installations

WINE CASK CELLARS, APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER OF STOCK

Ms. Adachi – Moved to approve. Mr. Gowing – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

ALG DISCUSSION

Mr. Ledoux updated the Board on issues and they have not reached consensus on use of the reserves. Maryanne Ashton felt that if there were some justification she might get Fin Com to support \$1.7M APS budget has been reduced and AB assessments has come down somewhat. We hit \$1.7M.

WARRANT ARTICLES

The Board discussed the ordering of the warrant and issues around having a fall town meeting for zoning in the future.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Mr. Sonner – Heads up Water District has a contested election. Do we have any regulations regarding citizens plowing sidewalks in front of their properties?

Mr. Clough – DRB Morrison Farm, looked at NARA pavilion. Kelley's Corner feed back to Roland and was a good experience. EDC is working on business process. OPEB estimate may go down to \$60 million. Open Space meeting discussed.

Ms. Harting-Barrat spoke about School Committee conference and made a decision to have one more meeting about regionalization, Boxboro has another financial plan to discuss

Ms. Adachi – ACHC met with architects about the proposed of siding on Sachem way homes. She is still moving forward with a Draft Sign policy

Mr. Gowing – Legislative Breakfast talked about several issues that were discussed. HDC approved Certificate for WAVE Project.

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CONSENT

HOLD SIGN REQUESTS ON THE COMMON #13 AND #14, 11, 15

Mr. Gowing - Moved to approve the Consent Agenda excluding 11,13,14 and 15. - Mr. Sonner
- second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

John Sonner was an abutter to the lights and had concern on the use of the parking lot fees.

John Sonner held #13 & 14 – signs on the Common issue. He noted we temporarily hold until a procedure is put into place.

Mr. Gowing spoke about the sign request for the common, he felt we could put a sign in front of the red house and could relax for groups that have traditionally had signs. He still would like to allow and encourage them to hold the plant sale on the common.

Mr. Clough was concerned about accidents and we could try it. Ms. Harting-Barrat did not feel that is was not a problem. Mr. Sonner said we find a solution until the procedure is prepared to address this.

Mr. Sonner – Move to approve sign requests, 13 and 14, and he felt we leave it to town staff for the placement of the signs on the Common. Mr. Clough -second. 4-1 Mr. Gowing Nay- Motion passes

Mr. Gowing - Move to approve item 11 as part of an overall policy determined by Town Manager. Mr. Clough – second. Mr. Sonner to abstain as he is an abutter 4-1 Motion passes

Adjourned 11:00 p.m.

Christine Joyce
Recording Secty

Michael Gowing, Clerk

Date

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
January 28, 2012
Acton Town Hall
Francis Faulkner Hearing Room 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ms. Harting-Barrat, Chairman, Ms. Adachi, Mr. Gowing, Mr. Clough, Mr. Sonner, and Ms. Adachi, Recording Secretary, Town Manager Steve Ledoux

Ms. Harting-Barrat read the Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property. Mr. Sonner Moved - Mr. Clough -second. Clerk roll-call vote: All Ayes. Ms. Harting-Barrat noted that at the conclusion of Executive Session, the Board would move into the regular public session.

CITIZENS CONCERNS

Jim Snyder-Grant, 18 Half Moon Hill expressed support for the proposed design work for Kelley's Corner.

Graham Knowland, Estabrook Rd, asked about the schedule for printing and mailing the Town Meeting warrant, and offered comments about the proposed zoning amendment pertaining to Brookside Mall. The proposed amendment is identical to Article 43 in the 2012 warrant, which Town Meeting voted down. Mr. Knowland said the proposal would be of benefit only to the Brookside owner, and would not protect Estabrook Road residents; he showed photographs of existing conditions that he said were safety concerns for the residents: the rear access road from Brookside to Estabrook lacking "do not enter" signs, and the old cars stored behind Colonial Chevrolet and visible from Estabrook. Planning Director Roland Bartl explained that the Planning Board had asked him to advertise the proposed change, with notice to abutters, as was done a year ago; the Planning Board believes that the property is business-use and should be business-zoned so that proposed changes do not require variances. The concern is for the businesses operating at Brookside rather than the property owner.

Franny Osman, Half Moon Hill offered her support for the Kelley's Corner proposal, and thanked the Board for supporting the transportation system.

The owner of Johnny Rockets, which has been open for about week, thanked the Board and town for being so business-friendly and welcoming. He noted that Johnny Rockets has existed since 1988, has locations worldwide, and never before has he been in a neighborhood that was so welcoming. The Acton operation has developed a special menu for the Town, with all-natural, more local items. An interior sign says "AB Colonials Eat Here."

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE/MANAGER'S MINUTE

Ms. Harting-Barrat reported on the decision last week of the Regionalization Study Sub-Committee to recommend that the Town not to pursue K-6 regionalization because the

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proposal was unlikely to pass in the two towns. Despite some 40 presentations, support never coalesced. Boxborough probably will end up taking in about 60 choice students.

Mr. Ledoux noted the Governor's release of his proposed budget. Ch. 70 aid for the local schools and Regional District is up; unrestricted local aid for the Town is level-funded, although a new category of annual-formula local aid would add about 58K for the Town. The proposed budget also includes 1.2 billion in tax hikes, so there is a lot for the MA Legislature to discuss. The Acton Leadership Group plan contemplates a 2% decrease in state aid. He and others will be viewing a Webinar tomorrow on the use of Community Preservation Act funds in connection with long-term borrowing. The Town finally is in the net-metering queue for solar power.

FY14 RECOMMENDED BUDGET VOTE

Mr. Ledoux provided an update with slides on the FY14 budget for the Town. The total proposed budget is \$30,172,180.

Operating: 28,483,335 (up 96K to add 3 cruisers)

Capital: 749K

Subsidies: 507,845 (down 91K due to H901 bill passing and being signed into law)

OPEB (other post-employment benefits): 432K

Budget Drivers: 4 new police officers, lead dispatcher, Finance Department clerical, OPEB factor for new positions, health insurance, 2 of 5 cruisers from parking meter fund, employee health incentive (wellness) funding for stop-loss insurance.

Use of parking meter fund for police cruisers— down to 63K from 157.5K

Even with the Board's recommendation tonight, changes are possible due to the uncertainty in state budget, changes in receipts projections, etc. Mr. Ledoux noted that he had prepared a memorandum explaining where cuts would come if the Town held the use of reserves to 1.7M or 1.5M, rather than the current 2M that the ALG Budget contemplates.

Mr. Clough asked about the transfer station loader, which would come out of the enterprise fund; Mr. Ledoux confirmed that cutting that item would mean the funds would go back to the Enterprise Fund.

Jim Snyder-Grant noted that the final cost of the Wood Lane final acquisition would be slightly higher than 25K due to the survey. Mr. Ledoux agreed that the survey needs to be added in.

Mr. Ledoux noted that the Schools Budget at Budget Saturday last weekend assumed the use of 2M in reserves. In response to Ms. Adachi's query, Mr. Ledoux said he was not sure whether the schools also had made cuts to eliminate the 600K deficit that existed as of the last ALG meeting.

Ms. Adachi said that she had heard from some residents who were concerned about the Kelley's Corner proposal, and she had been trying to address her own reservations.

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She wanted to be sure that the process going forward would be inclusive, with outreach to the public, including businesses, especially in the earlier 60K phase; and that the new consultants would be familiar with the 1995 and 1997 Kelley's Corner studies, and avoid reinventing the wheel. Kat Hudson, 2020 Committee member, expressed doubt that anyone including Ms. Adachi still would question the proposal, given the Board's, and 2012 Town Meeting's approval, and Town staff and Town Manager's support. Ms. Adachi noted that most voters and residents had not participated in the development of the Master Plan or the Town Meeting vote, and the process needed to be open to those who might become more engaged as the project evolved. Mr. Sonner and Mr. Bartl agreed that there should be robust public participation.

Mr. Gowing emphasized that the existence of consensus about the 2020 plan and Kelley's Corner does not mean complete agreement. The Town has 14K registered voters of whom only small numbers were involved in the 2020 workshops. He participated in the 2020 process and did not agree with the results on some issues.

Celia Kent, 2020 Committee member, said she was responsible for understanding the old plans. She noted that the old plans relied heavily on prose, whereas now there are much better tools for creating the design framework, and showing residents the possibilities in a much more understandable way. The aim is to raise all of the issues and then do the design work.

Mr. Clough thanked Mr. Bartl for the information from the Planning Department on MassWorks projects and other data that the Board will need to defend the proposal at Town Meeting.

Mr. Sonner thinks the Town is in a better situation than was true a year ago. The health insurance adjustments were important, as was the recognition of the need to address OPEB. But as part of the next budget season, the Board should do more on the long-term capital plan, which the Finance Committee has been working on.

Mr. Clough noted that the schools are adding the same number of full-time employees that they have lost. The collective compensation rate might be lower, but the schools currently are not planning to add an OPEB factor for each new hire. He would like to lower reserves use to send a message to the Schools that they need to account for OPEB obligation in new FTE's. Mr. Ledoux noted that the proposed new FTE's include three at the Acton Public Schools. Ms. Harting-Barrat said she is comfortable with using 2M in reserves. Mr. Sonner said he is comfortable with 2M but wants the schools to fund the OPEB obligation for new FTE's. Ms. Adachi said especially the 3 FTE's in Acton Public Schools, given that the Town, not the schools, is responsible for the Acton Public school's OPEB obligation.

Mr. Gowing -Moved to approve the Town Manager's proposed budget of \$30,172,180
Mr. Clough -second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

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BOY SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

Ms. Harting-Barrat will be out of town so Mr. Gowing will attend.

CONSENT

Mr. Sonner -Moved to approve, Mr. Clough -second, UNANIMOUS VOTE

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Mr. Sonner – The Library Committee is working on long-range planning; the South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee will be meeting with the Transportation Advisory Committee to look at parking issues during construction and after; Acton 2020 is looking at regionalization as well as the Kelley's Corner plan; the Recreation Commission will be holding the annual Winter Carnival on Saturday.

Mr. Clough – The OPEB working group meeting was rescheduled due to a conflict with the Finance Committee meeting; he would like to hear from the rest of the Board as to where we go if the recommendations of the state OPEB Commission become law; the Design Review Board has not met lately but he would like them to look at the proposed Morrison Farm building, if it goes forward; some people have said the proposed would shade the gardens, etc. The Economic Development Committee pushed for a sign-by-law pamphlet, which the Town has issued and which covers the requirements in and outside of the Historic Districts. Mr. Ledoux added that staff is working on FAQs for other departments. Mr. Clough said EDC is working on permitting process guidelines. Mr. Ledoux noted that the space-needs consultants will make a presentation to the Board the 2d meeting in February. Mr. Clough said the Community Preservation Committee has seen all project presentations, and now need to decide what to support, what to bond.

Ms. Adachi – Acton Meadows construction is underway on Great Road; Habitat for Humanity is seeking a prospective owner for the existing house at the front. The Acton Community Housing Corporation has some concerns about how the lack of an associate, until the amendment of the charter to authorize associates, will affect its ability to achieve quorum. She joined Mr. Gowing and others on 1/15 for a walk of the Caouette parcel to determine the boundaries for proposed conservation-restriction-protected area and the proposed Assabet River Rail Trail and parking. The Commission on Disabilities has completed an annual calendar template, providing for range of recurring annual activities cultivating connections with the Town as well as connections among COD members. The Water Resources Advisory Committee will continue to do outreach to town departments, committees and the public though no proposal will be on the warrant. Sen. Jamie Eldridge hosted his Green Advisory Council meeting on Sat, 1/19, at Parker-Damon, and will be introducing 8 environmental bills in the new session. No Place for Hate hosted its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at Temple Beth Elohim on 1/21. Ms. Adachi had to miss the MA Municipal Association conference on 1/25-1/26 due to a family matter out of town.

Mr. Gowing – The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) conference included a well-received presentation by Town staff members about the new program (code of conduct) requiring civility from Town Hall visitors. Mr. Ledoux said there were 65

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attendees. Attended seminar on medical marijuana. Lowell Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA) – Saturday Bus Service Lowell, Tewksbury, proposal to sell unused LRTA buildings in Lowell, but Federal monies used to buy. Health Insurance Trust (HIT) – proposed changes in rates, final vote later at February meeting, Historic District Commission (HDC) – finalized Certificate of Appropriateness for WAVE Project. Discussion of HDC loan program, lots of work/barriers to put plan in place, so might be easier to just give money. Letter of support for Morrison Farm project and have completed the letter of compliance for Exchange Hall. Cable Advisory reached out to Verizon & Comcast conversion to complete digital in lieu of converting analog to digital. Comcast contact Tim Kelly moving to larger region. Caouette Conservation Restriction Committee on site re: access point for Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT), make sure wording doesn't conflict when submitting Conservation Restriction to the State.

Ms. Harting-Barrat – The Planning Board did not meet. The Schools have been focusing on the Regionalization Study. The Nursing Service is doing much better.

Mr. Clough asked whether the Board should discuss the Brookside Shops issue now. Mr. Ledoux said that if the Planning Board moves the proposal forward, the Board will have to address at that time. Ms. Harting-Barrat suggested that he look at the old files from 2000-2001. Ms. Adachi said Mr. Bartl might be able to provide an executive summary of the issues.

Adjourn 8:55 p.m.

Janet Adachi

Mike Gowing, Clerk
Date _____

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

July 9, 2012

Acton Town Hall

Francis Faulkner Hearing Room 7:00 p.m.

Pre-Meeting at the Morrison Farm Property, 6:15 p.m.

Present: Ms. Barrat, Ms. Adachi, Mr. Gowing, Mr. Clough, Mr. Sonner absent, and Town Manager Ledoux, Recording Secretary; Christine Joyce. The meeting was televised

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

None

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE & OPERATIONAL MINUTE

Ms. Harting-Barrat spoke about the Fire Works and the traffic along Main Street. She also expressed her concern about those walking with small children. Mr. Ledoux announced that three new firefighters will be on board to fill the retirements. ALG meeting hammered out a schedule for the upcoming meetings and will put together a Sub-committee to discuss OPEB.

Governor's budget and CPA notice came in today.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

SETTING OF THE FY13 SEWER RATES

Mr. Barrett, our Finance Director was present to ask for a vote for sewage rates for FY13. He noted that this is the 10th year of us being in the sewer business. Costs are stable and under control. Woodard Curran is the vendor hired to run the plant. He noted that water use is flat. For the third year we recommend no rate change. He asked the Sewer Commissioner's to keep the fees at FY12 Level Mr. Gowing – Moved to accept the Finance Director's recommendation to maintain the rates at the FY12 level. Mr. Clough –second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

EXCHANGE HALL

Mr. Graham outlined the status of the project and the problem with the upper floors. Mr. Berger has bids for the work and expects to finish in 9 months or sooner.

Ms. Adachi noted the Lula meets the requirements and asked if it would satisfy our uses. Ms. Adachi asked if they are asking for a letter outlining everything like a "Punch List" and when the time comes we would release the CPC monies to them.

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Mr. Clough had wanted the stage available. But he feels it will meet what he expected.

Mr. Gowing asked if Mr. Berger was given 8 months to complete the accessibility project and asked if would take 8 months. They have a contractor who provides the elevator and will need to get his loan in place. Mr. Gowing asked about door handles and restrooms. Mr. Gowing also spoke about the punch list from AAB and the State MHC if he is meeting those requirements. Steve Graham said they have already gotten permission from MHC.

Mr. Gowing - Moved to have the town generate the letter in broad brush stroke detail of what needs to be done with/by the owner, and to work with Building Commissioner and Planning Director to craft a letter that notes the punch list to satisfy the Town. Mr. Clough – second
UNANIMOUS VOTE

TRAFFIC RULES AND ORDERS AMENDMENT, SPRUCE STREET

The Chair read the Public Notice and outlined the purpose was to ease parking in the Spruce/Arlington Street area. Corey York, Town Engineer presented the amendments needed to allow these three parking spaces.

Mr. Gowing - Moved to amend the parking prohibition and increase the parking on the west side by Table and Tea Pots and to increase it to two hour parking. Motion and second withdrawn

Mr. Gowing asked why we would not modify the bylaw on the west side of Spruce Street to add 6 spaces. It was noted that the developer was paying for this construction.

Mr. Bettez asked about the indent at Table and Tea Pots. The sidewalk will stay and will they be moving the curbing. He asked if the school bus drivers and crossing guards had been asked about their experience with the corner.

Ryan Bettez expressed concerns about parking and narrowing of the street. He noted that it not considered a school zone. He wanted to board not to vote tonight and research it more.

Donna Miller a Windsor Ave. resident walks and drives through the area. She was concerned about snow and to define the parking by sweet Bites.

Mr. Gowing asked about changing the sidewalk side. He suggested the elimination of parking on the east side.

Ms. Adachi wanted clarification on several issues and asked that the Town Engineer prepare new drawings for the Board to review further.

Mr. Clough spoke about the issue and felt we need a comprehensive plan from Mass Ave. to Spruce Street to review.

Mr. Clough wants to consider it further. The Town Engineer was asked to review and present a revised plan to address the concerns that were expressed.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

MORRISON FARM DISCUSSION

The Board toured the Farm House this evening and felt it is livable and need a determination of how to use the property.

Mr. Gowing noted in the mid-2000's Mrs. Morrison passed away and a use plan was formulated for the farm. Mr. Mullin said there were recommendations regarding parking, the house, Ice House Pond area and he is looking to move this forward. The committee needs to implement what was discussed. VCC will be asked to look for a member to fill Dia Chiga's resignation. Mr. Mullin said he would like to form a friends group much like NARA and the Lower Fields. The property needs to be mowed and the clearing of the vistas needed to be done. He noted that with 30 people working together on this it would be completed. He will report back to the Board in January.

Mr. Mullin said we need to get this going. Mr. Mullin wants to serve as the chairman of the committee. He felt that 15 years is way to long to wait. He said his vision is in 2025, the 250 Anniversary of the Battle in Concord and looking over the sites historical significance would be a tribute to the Town. The organic farm is doing wonderful. They can put in toilets, he felt we needed to have working groups and each person takes a piece of the project and will come back to you with the vision.

Mr. Gowing explained the Board's model. Mr. Mullin wants broader authority and he would like a blessing and yes, to expand the working group and bring in more people.

Mr. Clough noted he thinks something needs to get done. The committee needs to be activated and hoped for open participation.

Ms. Adachi felt that he was energized and would get people involved. She agreed with Mr. Clough and was concerned about getting the Committee going. Ms. Adachi hopes to get all kinds of input and wants to come up with a plan and to have sub-committee formed and move forward.

Ms. Harting-Barrat felt the whole idea of a walk through time was great, and felt the other committee members would elect him Chairman

RATIFICATION OF JUNE 25TH GOAL SETTING MEETING

Ms. Harting-Barrat read the list of goals discussed at the June 25th Goal Setting Special Meeting. Ms. Adachi- Moved to Ratify the Goal List as presented this evening. Mr. Gowing – second UNANIMOUS VOTE

REGULATION OF DONATION BINS

Ms. Harting-Barrat outlined the Donation Bin situation. Mr. Ledoux noted that Counsel looked in to the situation and his research is in your packet. He discussed the various options before the Board in this regard as outlined in Counsel's memorandum.

Mr. Ledoux wanted the Board's in-put to have Town Counsel and Manager draft a solution.

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Nancy Lenichek read a recent ruling and wanted to see if the bin owners are registered as a non-profit and registered as a co-venture

Ms. Adachi felt that we need to have regulations aiming at the owners of the bins.

Mr. Ledoux noted the bins are in violation of zoning and sign regulations.

He discussed the third approach which will require simple disclosure, simple rules and licensing Fee. We need to let people know what the options are.

Mr. Gowing felt it is a sign bylaw issue, and we want to control how our town looks. He thinks we say a property can put anything on if it is not for profit. He thinks we should look at the overall bin replacement and who gets the responsibility for the placement. He feels we should get the property owners involved.

Mr. Ledoux also noted the bins that overflow and collection schedules create a mess at the sites.

Carol Drombroski from the Friends Group said she was in favor of solution 4.

Mr. Gowing noted we need a comprehensive solution to address it.

Mr. Clough asked what the next step would be. Ms. Harding-Barrat felt we need to ask Roland to look into the requirements that Quincy employs regarding regulation of Donation Bins.

Mr. Gowing outlined several options under a separate bylaw.

Mr. Clough asked when we want to have this addressed.

BOY SCOUT COURT OF HONOR –BRANDON C. SIDES

Ms. Harting-Barrat will take the Court of Honor with Mr. Gowing as backup.

EXTENSION OF THE TOWN MANAGER'S CONTRACT

Ms. Adachi - Moved to extend the Town Manager's Contract two years. Mr. Clough – second UNANIMOUS VOTE

CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR ELECTIONS

The Town Clerk outlined the problems at Nagog Club House during elections. The Field House should provide room for growth and timing is important as the school is preparing their calendar. Mr. Ledoux noted that he had discussed this with Dr. Mill's and agreed once Eva followed up.

Mr. Gowing said it is tough to get in and out of Nagog. He was concerned about traffic and those with a walking handicap. Eva said they would have a row of handicapped parking and the ramp is close for easy access which makes the entrance handicapped.

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Ms. Adachi asked what Professional Day was. It meant that the teachers and students would not be there.

Ms. Harting-Barrat asked about the swim team and their schedule. The Town Clerk noted that they will work out schedules with the School. Mr. Gowing wanted to see what happens this first year and review it before continuing. Mr. Gowing was concerned about the inadequate handicap parking when they tried to move it to the Jr. High.

Mr. Gowing – Moved that polling/elections be moved to the Upper Gym, Field House for the purpose of holding State, Federal and Local Elections this year, and to review it next year. Mr. Clough – second UNANIMOUS VOTE

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

Mr. Clough – Finance Committee take away was that they wanted to figure out a comprehensive plan with the bigger financial overview.

Ms. Adachi – Housing Authority document signing and notarizing and nothing much happened at the meeting except for the administrative business. She reported that the Acton Water District moving forward for new well.

Met with Roland about Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and to keep the design on track. They will have updates, perhaps quarterly, to the Board on the process. Working with Jim Snyder-Grant and the Land Stewardship bylaws.

Went to the Opening of the Old High School. Fourth of July fireworks were good and crowded.

Mr. Gowing - Cable met and issued a complaint against Verizon. It was resolved. The Health Insurance Committee has approved Cook and Company for the third year. We have several large claims and will start out in the hole. Mr. Gowing noted that he will have to take the Conflict of Interest course again for RTAC.

Ms. Harting-Barrat – Regional Study Committee has major problems with the make-up and vote weighing.

CONSENT

Mr. Gowing – Moved to approve the Consent calendar. Mr. Clough – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

Adjourned 10:00 p.m.

Christine Joyce
Recording Secty

Michael Gowing, Clerk

Date

2/25
⑦

June 25, 2012

Goal Setting Meeting

Police Chief's Conference Room

Present: Ms. Harting-Barrat, Ms. Adachi, Mr. Gowing, Mr. Clough and Mr. Sonner. Town Manager Ledoux and Ms. Early were present. The meeting was not televised.

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM with several Issues on the posted agenda to be addressed before the Board begins discussing Goals.

1. SELECTMEN TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING INSERT INTO FIRST QUARTER TAX BILL

The Board reviewed an insert from the Acton Nursing Service regarding the right to choose a nursing service. The Board was concerned with the wording of the proposed insert as it might be confusing. Mr. Gowing -Moved to approve the insert, provided the Town Manager rewords the insert. Mr. Clough – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

The Town Manager also reported that School Committee member, Xuan Kong, has requested that an insert into the tax bill asking for public input on the K – 6 Regionalization Study. There will be no additional cost for postage. Mr. Clough- Moved to allow the insert, provided it is acceptable to the Town Manager. Mr. Gowing – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

2. APPOINTMENT of MEMBER TO OPEB WORKING GROUP

The Town Manager reported that at the most recent ALG Meeting, the ALG agreed to form an OPEB Working group to develop a long range strategy to deal with the unfunded liability. Membership will include a member of the Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee, Town Staff and School Staff. The group will meet after the FinCom subcommittee on OPEB has done their fact finding. Mr. Gowing - Moved to appoint Mr. Clough as the Board's representative. Mr. Sonner – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE Mr. Sonner indicated his interest but will be on vacation during some of the meetings.

3. ANNUAL GOAL SETTING

RESULTS OF ANNUAL GOAL SETTING

Goals were divided into Short Term and Long Term. Short Term being defined as something that can be accomplished within the year and Long Term taking more than one year to accomplish. All goals were considered and finalized by utilizing the Nominal Group Technique (assigning numeric values to choices). The results were as follows:

June 25, 2012

Board of Selectmen's Goal Setting Meeting

SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Develop Long Term Financial Strategy with FinCom and Schools, including a Capital Plan and OPEB Strategy (14 points)
2. Perform a Space Needs Study (11 Points)
3. Develop a Succession Plan for Employees as well as Town Board Members (7 Points)
4. Quarterly Review of Selectmen's and Departmental Goals (5 Points)
5. (Tie) (4 Points)
 - Increase Ease of Access to Financial Information
 - Clean Up Board of Selectmen's Policies and Improve Ease of Access to All Town Policies
 - Increase and Improve Town Meeting Participation and Process
 - Add More Police Officers and Hire Deputy Chief

Other items receiving consideration: Role of Design Review; Senior Center Expansion; Approver Sign Bylaw Changes and Develop Transition Plan to Enforce; Implementation of Morrison Farm Plan; West Acton Parking Needs Assessment; Equipment Storage for Town Equipment, including acquiring Harris Street site; Permit Software in Place by End of FY 2013; Install Solar Panels on Landfill.

LONG TERM GOALS

1. Develop Regional Transportation Plan (20 Points)
 2. Develop Sewering Policy (9 Points)
 3. (Tie) (8 Points)
 - Regionalize Emergency Dispatch
 - Implement Kelley's Corner Plan
 - North Acton Fire Station
 4. Increase Number of Volunteers as well as candidates for Elective Office (7 Points)
 5. (Tie) (4 Points)
 - Explore Post South Acton Train Station Construction Traffic Mitigation
 - Build Rail Trails
- Other Items Receiving Consideration: Implement Strategy for Transfer of Development Rights; Regionalization of Health Services; Regionalization of Other Services such as COA and Public Housing

Mr. Sonner - Moved to adjourn meeting @ 9:30 PM. Mr. Clough – second
UNANIMOUS VOTE

Steven Ledoux

Clerk, Board of Selectmen

June 25, 2012

Board of Selectmen's Goal Setting Meeting